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A TESTIMONY

III.72.08

Concerning our late beloved Friend,

ELLEN M. NICHOLSON,

BY

PINEY WOODS MONTHLY MEETING.

Published by Direction of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends.

1873.

GREENSBORO, N. C.:
Printed at the "NEW NORTH STATE," Job Office.
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A TESTIMONY

OF PINEY WOODS MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, IN NORTH CAROLINA, CONCERNING ELLEN M. NICHOLSON, DECEASED, A MEMBER AND RECORDED MINISTER OF SAID MEETING.

As we recur to the life and labors of our late beloved Friend, ELLEN M. NICHOLSON, we believe it to be useful to ourselves, and trust that it may be encouraging to others, to bear witness to the Divine Power and Goodness which wrought in her a fitness for the work which her hands found to do in the name of the Lord Jesus, and which was blessed by Him to the help of many souls.

She was the daughter of William and Rhoda Bassett, and was born at Danby, Vermont, on 23rd of Seventh Month, 1833:—her parents being members and

her father a recorded Minister in our Religious Society. His death, however, occurring before she was two years of age, her mother and family returned to Smithfield, Rhode Island, and she, a few years afterwards, was committed to the faithful care of an Aunt, of that place.

The account which we have of the youthful life of our dear Friend bears fresh witness to the faithfulness of Him who has promised,—"They that seek me early, shall find me."

In the freshness of her life's morning she was made to feel the need of a Saviour, and enabled to commit herself unto Him whose love for us is set forth in His life and in His death.

The earnest longings for purity of heart, for entire conformity to the Divine Will, for power over temptation, the prayerful waiting to hear the voice of the Divine Shepherd, and to discern it from the voice of the stranger,—the

cherishing of intimations of the Master's will, and patient abiding till His time had come,—all these were not in vain.

In her 21st year, her duties as Teacher proved too severe for her delicate physical constitution, and for months the suffering and almost helplessness of what seemed to be hopeless disease tested her patience and her faith, which even *then* enabled her to believe that all things should work together for her good.

Though raised up from this attack, she was ever afterwards an invalid.

In the 12th Month, 1857, she was married to our friend Josiah Nicholson, and soon after became a member of this Monthly Meeting.

The intimations which she had at times received, of being called into more open and active service by her Lord for the promotion of His cause, began now to deepen, and to assume *definiteness* in her spiritual percep-

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We believe that she wa
our religious Meetings, a

nion and spiritual fellowship with the Lord Jesus, and simple trust in Him, tended greatly to give quickening power to her ministerial communications, and to baptize the hearers into the spirit of prayer during her public approaches to the Throne of Grace.

She was recorded as a Minister of the Gospel, by this meeting, in the 11th Month, 1865; and during the remainder of her life, was very diligent in visiting Friends in different parts of our Yearly Meeting, both in their meetings and families, and their schools.

In the Summer of 1867, she also visited, with our unity and sympathy, the Yearly Meetings of New York and New England, and some meetings within their limits.

The clearness of her spiritual perceptions, and her earnest desire to do her Master's work, were greatly blessed to many souls.

We bless the Name of the Lord for

the work that He hath wrought through her, and which is a living testimony to our hearts of His goodness and power.

We feel that He sanctified the varying experiences of her life, as a discipline preparatory to the ministrations of His service for others, as well as to the enjoyment of His presence in the heavenly world. He filled her heart with such a sense of the value of the souls which He died to save, and of her responsibility to Him who had redeemed her to Himself, that she no longer felt at liberty to live unto herself.

He dealt with her as a tender Father, and enabling her to prove herself an obedient child, her faith grew exceedingly, so that through five years of constant physical infirmity, and frequent severe suffering, she bore the messages of her Saviour's love, both abroad and to those near her home, to congregations and to individuals, with great accuracy of distribution, and with a steadfast trust in the Divine Arm.

Many are the witnesses now living, to the strength, and comfort and spiritual help imparted by her ministry; and not a few who have been called hence, we reverently believe, are now adoring in the midst of that wondrous realized redemption to which her faith and her words had pointed them. He was pleased, too, to teach her that whatsoever work she had for Him, was a *reasonable* service—to speak well of Him and of His ways, and to invite all to come and experience His yoke to be easy and His burden light to the humble and obedient soul.

With a yearning love she entered into the joys and sorrows of children and the youth; and binding them to herself in sympathy, she carried them to the Saviour's arms; and strove to keep them from wandering.

Endowed with pleasing manners, a cultivated mind, and quick perceptions, she felt herself accountable for the so-

cial influence which these qualities
ferred; and with an eye to her
ter's service, she visited, and rec
visits from,the poor and the rich,w
ing in conversation, or at the table
more formal religious opportunitie
fitting occasions to exercise the r
terial gifts bestowed upon her. I
all this she was not regardless o
duty which she owed to her own
ly, and as a loving wife, and t
Christian mother, she contributed
proper share to the happiness o
household.

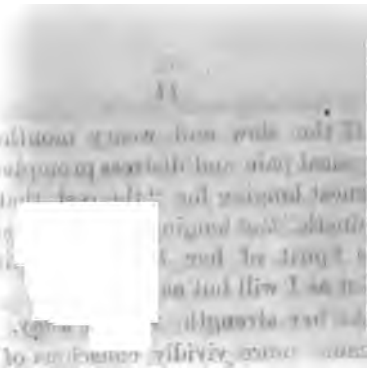
During the greater part of the
year of her life, she was confined t
bed, and agonizing suffering was
quently her portion; but her che
ness of manner and liveliness of fe
were refreshing and instructive to
who visited her. If, at times, a
of unworthin ss cast a temporary
ow over her trust, it left her w
deeper sense that all is of Grace
nothing of merit.

If the slow and weary months of physical pain and distress prompted an earnest longing for "the rest that remaineth," *that* longing was sanctified by the Spirit of her Saviour's petition, "Not as I will but as Thou wilt."

As her strength wasted away, she became more vividly conscious of the saving presence and power of her Lord; and when death was asserting his dominion over the body, heavenly visions were dawning upon her soul, and the failing utterance whispered, "How glorious."

She departed this life on the 10th of 12th month, 1870, in her 38th year.

Approved by North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends.

JOSIAH NICHOLSON, Clerk.

11th month, 1873.